

Message Text

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71

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5622

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UNCLAS PARIS 32529

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, FR

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT CREATES NEW ENERGY OFFICE

1. ON DECEMBER 19, THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS APPROVED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OFFICE OF ENERGY AND NAMED PIERRE BLANCARD AS HEAD. THE NEW OFFICE, WHICH WILL REPORT DIRECTLY TO THE PRIME MINISTER. WILL HAVE CONSIDERABLY BROADER AUTHORITY THAN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND SCIENCE SECRETARIAT OF ENERGY WHICH IT REPLACED. ACCORDING TO THE COMMUNIQUE, THE NEW OFFICE WAS CREATED IN ORDER TO HANDLE ENERGY PROBLEMS MORE EFFICIENTLY AND, TO THIS END, THE DIRECTOR OF THE NEW OFFICE WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATING INTERMINISTERIAL DECISIONS IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY IN ADDITION TO THE FUNCTIONS INHERITED FROM THE ENRGY SECRETARIAT.

2. BLANCARD IS A 59-YEAR OLD POLITECHNICIAN WHO HEADED THE OFFICE OF FUELS FROM 1951 TO 1959, WAS DIRECTOR OF GAZ DE FRANCE FROM 1959 TO 1969 AND DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF PETROLEUM RESEARCH FROM 1959-65. HE IS ALSO A MEMBER OF ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION AND SERVED AS VICE PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE BUREAU OF PRODUCTION AND EXPORTATION FOR THE FIRM ERAP. IRWIN

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